GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6217
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2005
SELF ASSESSMENT BY IT ASSESSEES
Agarwal Shri Dhirendra;Mahato Shri Bir Sing

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has adopted measures to promote self assessment of income by the assessees;

(b) the manner in which such assessment would be beneficial to the tax payer;

(c) whether the Government has implemented any scheme to improve the image of the Income Tax Department; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) Under the Income Tax Act, every assessee is required to make a self- assessment of his income and pay tax due thereon if the income is above taxable limit.

(b) Such self assessment, if correctly made, saves the tax-payer from interest/penalty/ prosecution under the Income Tax Act.

(c)&(d) Following measures have been initiated by the Income Tax Department to provide better tax-payer service thereby improving its image:

(i) Computerised processing of returns has resulted in faster issue of refunds.

(ii) Income Tax Department`s website `www.incometaxindia.gov.in` provides general information about income tax law. From this site, tax-payers can easily find and download up-to-date information and various tax return forms and challans, etc. A free return preparation software called `SAMPARK` is also available on this website with the help of which non- business tax-payers can prepare their returns.

(iii) Facility for on-line filing of PAN / TAN application is available and the applicants can also ascertain the status of the application on line.

(iv) Under a scheme notified by the Department, e-filing of returns has been introduced.

(v) A dedicated phone-in assistance for tax-payer information and services has been launched by the name of `ASK` (Aayakar Sampark Kendra).